



November 23, 1998

Theodore J. Kaczynski  
04475-046  
P.O. Box 8500  
Florence, CO 81226-8500

Dear Ted,

I wanted to alert you to something that has been on my mind. It regards possible public reception of Chapter VII of *Truth versus Lies*, and your account of the Tarmichael affair. These sections might not be in keeping with your objectives. *Truth versus Lies* has been wisely written in a rationalist manner. It has also been written with an insistence on the truth, even when the truth does not portray the author in the best possible light. In the main, I am certain that this will prove to be the right gambit for you to play. But I think you might consider the following.

The passages about your mother's care packages and the mailbox are perhaps too angry, and may serve to give the impression that you were unreasonable. The rationale is in place, and valid. She willfully ignored your requests. But you will have to get in and get out faster, and pull a few punches if you want to avert the possibility of the reader turning on you. People will not react well to an attack on your mother, as most people hold that relationship sacred and therefore will take those passages as a personal affront. It is important to demonstrate in more neutral terms just how impossibly irritating your mother was. Everyone can sympathize with that. No name-calling is indicated, or if it is indicated in the interest of full disclosure, an apology is in order — not to your mother necessarily (although it would be rhetorically correct), but for having subjected the reader to that sort of dialogue. You might consider paring down the exchange of letters. An apparent restraint will make you appear nobler in the end, all things considered.

I feel similarly about your account of the Tarmichael affair. I would try to give a less detailed account and provide a more detailed description of the situation vis-à-vis your relationship with your brother who fired you. Did you want to get fired? That is my impression. If that is the case, I would state it in bold and place the minutiae of your frustrating encounter with Tarmichael in relief. It is important, but not as important as the fact that you were fired by your own brother, which foreshadows his final betrayal.

These are not requests for changes, but simply comments. I hope this note finds you well, and I look forward to hearing your response to the above.

My best,

Bean.